

Dr. Block was recently named as a fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Inventors. Being elected as an NAI fellow is the highest professional recognition for academic inventors who have shown a lifelong commitment to innovation, specifically by facilitating or creating inventions that make a measurable impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society.

Dr. Block is being recognized for his contributions to therapeutic drug and biomarker of disease screening and discovery. Dr. Block also holds more than nine patents and has been involved, for more than 30 years, in viral hepatitis research.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives thanks Dr. Block for the work that he has done in this field, which has undoubtedly impacted the lives of constituents in my district and people around the world.

#### RISING TO SAVE LIVES PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the CR for its repetitiveness and its inability to save lives, frankly, the lives of DREAMers or the lives of those who depend upon the Children's Health Insurance Program.

In the vulgar statement that was made by the White House, how shocking this week of Dr. King's birthday of the deafening silence of my Republican friends and the faith community, the broad-based faith community.

Let me read from the network:

The slave codes created servitude for natural life for African laborers. 250-plus years slave labor of millions of African and Black people was the foundation of the American economy and global force that it eventually became. On the eve of the Civil War, Black slaves were valued at an estimated \$3.5 billion—and that is scaled for modern inflation—and none of the Black slaves were able to cash in on that value.

That is the vulgar statement about Africa from which many of us have come. And so I would argue that it is time, now, for this House to stand up for people such as those who are starving in Somalia, those who are starving in Sudan and Nigeria, those who have been called a vulgar word.

Where is the morality of this Congress, the morality of this administration, the morality of this Nation?

Enough is enough.

#### RISING IN SUPPORT OF THE BORN- ALIVE SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4712, the Born-

Alive Survivors Protection Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important pro-life legislation.

The Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act is a simple but critical bill to strengthen the protections for babies who survive abortion. It ensures that these precious babies are provided with the same degree of medical care that any other child would receive in order to save their life.

We all expect doctors and nurses to follow their oath to help and heal. This bill simply codifies that expectation into law for babies who survive abortion and deserve a chance at life.

Just think about this. Right now we are debating whether a living, breathing baby should be given a chance to live. I know that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that these babies deserve our compassion, and most importantly, our protection, and I hope they will join in me in supporting this important legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JIM MELIUS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Jim Melius, who passed away on January 1.

Possessed of a technical expertise and a fierce sense of justice, Dr. Melius was a tireless advocate for people who, due to no fault of their own, were exposed to toxic and deadly substances in the workplace. He was a powerful force in our efforts in helping thousands of western New Yorkers get long overdue relief for suffering caused by their unknowing exposure to uranium at long-shuttered plants like Linde Ceramics, Hooker Chemical, Carborundum, and Bethlehem Steel, where, today, over \$300 million in compensation and medical bills have been paid out to former employees. With a calm and steady demeanor, he gave instant credibility to any fight. He was a tremendous resource and he was a good man.

While our fight to provide full and fair relief for all of these citizens continues, we will never forget this fighter for all the Cold War warriors.

#### KATE'S KART MARKS 10 YEARS

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kate's Kart, a group founded in memory of Kate Layman.

Monday marked 10 years since Kate's life was cut short due to a heart condition at the age of 18 months. During Kate's final moments here on Earth, listening to stories brought a sense of comfort and joy.

Today, Kate's memory lives on through Kate's Kart. This organization brings joy to thousands of hospitalized

children throughout northeast Indiana by giving them free books. In the 10 years that it has operated, Kate's Kart has passed out over 186,000 books.

Kate's Kart is particularly near and dear to my heart because Mr. Layman, Kate's father, was my middle school history teacher, and he helped spark my interest in government.

I want to recognize the life-changing work of Kate's Kart. Truly, Kate's legacy lives on through this organization and its impact on children throughout northeast Indiana.

□ 1215

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL SESSIONS' CANNABIS DECISION

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to Attorney General Sessions' unproductive and backwards marijuana policies. By rescinding the Cole memorandum on legal marijuana enforcement, Jeff Sessions proved that he has one goal as Attorney General, and that is reviving the failed war on drugs.

These policies have proven to be devastating for communities of color. For example, African Americans are four times more likely to be arrested and incarcerated for marijuana possession than their White counterparts. Instead of embracing outdated drug laws, the Attorney General should be working to create a criminal justice system that treats everyone fairly.

What is worse, by going after legal marijuana businesses and consumers, the Attorney General is really showing a blatant disregard for the will of the American people who have voted, mind you, in their States for more reasonable and fairer laws.

That is why I am proud to introduce H.R. 4779. Actually, we introduced it last week, along with my friend, Congressman DON YOUNG. It is a bipartisan bill called the REFER Act, which would prevent harmful Federal overreach. Also, today we are introducing a bill that will end the Federal prohibition.

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTIONS

(Mr. MARSHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that it has been 30 years since it was my first night alone as an OB/GYN resident at Bayfront Health in St. Petersburg, Florida. As fate would have it, I was called about 2 in the morning, stat, to the OB floor.

When I got there, I went into a patient's room and reviewed a lady that I had never met before. I quickly looked at her and determined that she might be 24 weeks pregnant. But more alarmingly, she had blood oozing from the bed, soaking into the cloth beneath the

bed, filling buckets of blood, and I knew I had seconds or minutes to make a decision whether to do a C-section on this lady.

As we rushed her back to the OR and quickly did a C-section, I was calling in neonatologists, anesthesiologists, anybody I could. And you can't imagine, when I reached in there to pull the first baby out, that there was a second baby. We did everything we could to save those babies' lives.

But what I can't really believe, Mr. Speaker, is that an abortion clinic across town where botched abortions occur and babies born this same gestational age are executed in inhumane fashion.

Mr. Speaker, we have a chance Friday to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and I look forward to passing that legislation.

#### URGENT NATIONAL PRIORITIES

(Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party has total control of Washington. Yet, instead of fulfilling their responsibilities to fund the government, President Trump and the Republicans wasted the last 4 months on their tax scam.

Because they haven't done their jobs, Republicans now tell us we need to kick the can down the road again. Minnesotans and Americans deserve better. We need a budget deal that keeps our government open, protects our national security, meets our commitments to hardworking families. We need to reauthorize community health centers which will otherwise be forced to lay off healthcare workers. We need to protect workers' retirements by enacting responsible pension reform. And, yes, we must pass the Dream Act.

There is bipartisan support for these priorities. The only thing standing in the way is Republican's failure to govern responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for President Trump and the Republicans to end the chaos and to work across the aisle to meet the urgent needs of the American people.

#### NORTH TEXANS ARE BENEFITING FROM HISTORIC TAX REFORM

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Texas businesses are putting more money in their employees' pockets because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Companies that employ tens of thousands of my constituents in north Texas are giving bonuses to their employees, increasing investment in their operations, and donating millions of dollars to charities.

These Texas companies are joining thousands of others across the country and doing the same for their workers.

They are growing the American economy because of tax reform. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reforms an unfair and uncompetitive Tax Code, and that is being fixed in this Tax Code. It provides tax relief at every income level and helps Americans and American businesses to succeed in the future.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROFESSOR BEN BARRES

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and achievements of Ben Barres, a Stanford neurobiologist.

Professor Barres started life as "Barbara." He received a BS from MIT in 1976, an MD from Dartmouth in 1979, and a Ph.D. in neuroscience and neurobiology from Harvard in 1990. Ben started at Stanford in 1993 and made the transition to male in 1997, always championing the cause of women in academia and dignity for everyone.

Ben had 160 scientific publications. Perhaps his greatest achievements were about the glial cells in the brain that are responsible for the formation and regeneration of neurons. He found that the glial cells play a central role in developing the wiring of the brain. Prior to his work, these cells were thought of as the insulation for neurons, much like packing peanuts of the brain.

Professor Barres cofounded Annexon Biosciences, Inc., a company that makes drugs to block neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's. Ben Barres died on December 27 of pancreatic cancer.

#### RECOGNIZING MARIA ALONSO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize the president and CEO of United Way of Miami-Dade County, Maria Alonso.

The United Way of Miami-Dade is an organization committed to helping those most in need to lead successful lives. As its new president and CEO of the United Way chapter of Miami-Dade, Maria will continue to build on its mission of changing lives through education, financial stability, and health.

For more than 3 decades, Maria has dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Ms. Alonso has also chaired numerous south Florida institutions, such as the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and served on the boards of The Miami Foundation, Camillus House, the Miami-Dade College Foundation, the March of Dimes, and Teach For America.

Maria's vision of a stronger and united Miami is not only inspiring, but

the very foundation of the work of the United Way of Miami-Dade that it brings to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to represent individuals like Maria, and I thank her for this invaluable work to empower individuals to live healthier and more fulfilling lives.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAMELA PALANQUE-NORTH

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Pamela Palanque-North, a dedicated advocate for northern Manhattan and the citywide New York City community.

Ms. North was an unstoppable force of good in her own community. Beginning at Queens College, when she spoke out to increase minority student admissions, she since then served on numerous influential advisory boards across the city. She was the chair of Manhattan Community Board 12, where she served with distinction.

She was also the chair of and president of the Metropolitan Chapter, Jack and Jill, Inc., and founder of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's trustees' Multicultural Audience Development Initiative Advisory Committee. Her legacy should and will be remembered in her enthusiasm for giving back and the strong work that the entities she influenced continue to do.

Ms. North left a permanent mark in the northern Manhattan community, for which she will be forever fondly remembered for years to come.

#### PROVIDE PERMANENT STATUS FOR DREAMERS

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the situation that so many DREAMers—aspired Americans who know no other country—face is becoming more and more urgent in the face of President Trump's cancellation of their legal status in March.

I want to point out that over 100 are losing status every day and losing their permission to be able to go to work—their legal status—in our country. If we fail to act, one million aspired Americans will be unable to work legally and live legally in the only country they know, instantly creating over one million more people who are here illegally—the opposite of what President Trump ran on and the opposite of what the American people want.

I know that we can pass a solution through this body. I have heard so many Republicans and Democrats talk passionately about providing permanent status for the DREAMers. Let's pass the Dream Act, any of these bills.